

ROMANTICISM AND RURALISM

Changing 19th Century
American Perceptions of
the Natural World

Paige Doerner



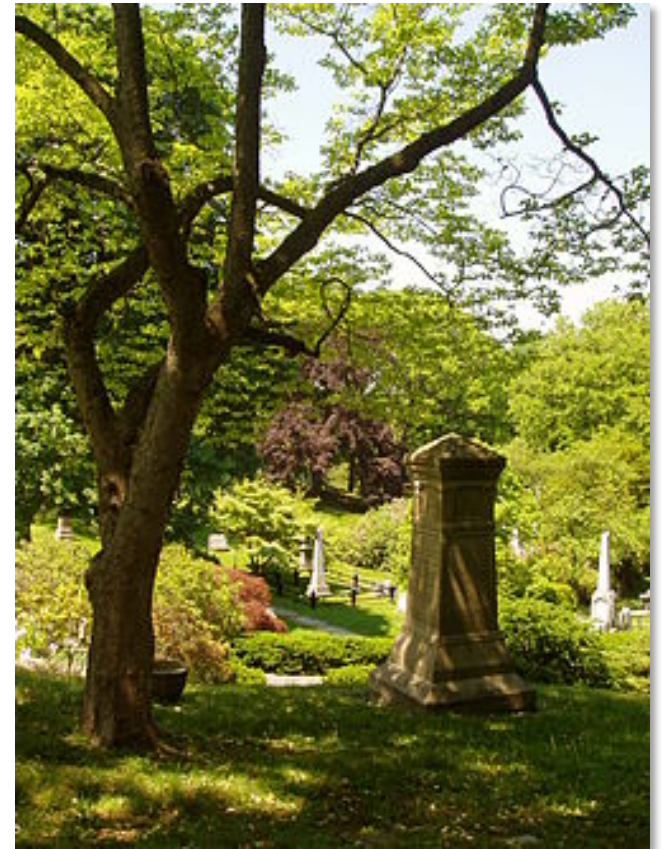
Photograph by Paige Doerner



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Romantic Sentimentality

- “Death inspires here no dread: on the contrary, a glance at this beautiful cemetery almost excites a wish to die.”
 - Swedish visitor to Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA (1833).



Mt. Auburn Cemetery

Romantic Literature

- William Wordsworth (1770 – 1850)

“To every natural form, rock, fruit, or flower
Even the loose stones that cover the high-way
I gave a moral life, I saw them feel
Or linked them to some feeling: the great mass
Lay bedded in a quickening soul, and all
That I beheld respired with inward meaning.”



William Wordsworth

19th Century American Landscape Painting

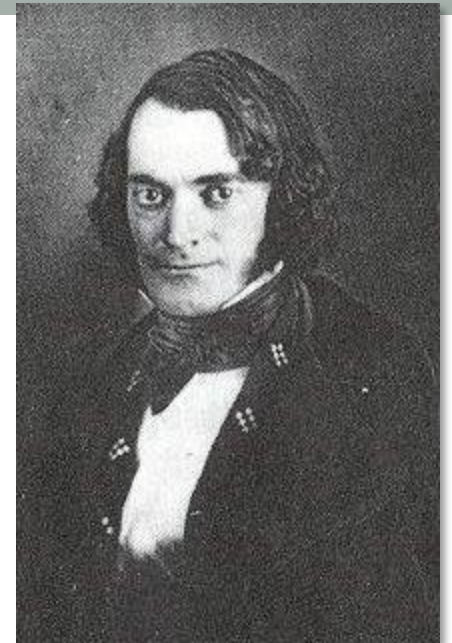
- Thomas Cole
 - 1801 - 1848
- Picturesque, beautiful and sublime
- Landscape art as pedagogical tool
- Awe-inspiring power of nature
 - De-emphasis of the human



"The Oxbow, or, View from Mt. Holyoke" by Thomas Cole (1836)

Landscape Architecture

- Andrew Jackson Downing
 - Domestic architecture as moralizing
 - “Livelier perceptions of the beautiful”
- Purifying powers of natural world
- Recreation of natural landscape



Andrew Jackson Downing

Fig. 2

DESIGN II.
A COTTAGE IN THE ENGLISH OR RURAL GOTHIC STYLE.



From A. J. Downing, *Cottage Residences* (1856)

The Rural Cemetery Movement

- Mt. Auburn (est. 1831)
 - Cambridge, MA
- Mt. Hope (est. 1838)
 - Rochester, NY



Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge MA



Mt Hope Cemetery, Rochester NY (Photo by Paige Doerner)

The Sanitarium Reform Movement

- Trudeau Sanitarium
 - Dr. Edward Livingston Trudeau
 - Saranac Lake, NY (f. 1884)
- Treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis in a rural sanitarium
- Nature as a healing agent



Dr. Edward Livingston Trudeau

Trudeau Sanitarium

- Creation of picturesque vistas
 - Viewing landscape as a work of art
- Physical and emotional renewal in nature



Blumenthal Cottage at Trudeau Sanitarium (photograph by Paige Doerner)

Natural Healing in the Adirondacks

- Open air treatment
- Natural activities encouraged
 - Hunting, hiking, swimming, landscape painting
- Climate not generally associated with healing
- Association between sentimentalized landscape portraiture and Saranac scenery



Adirondack Lake (Photo by Paige Doerner)



Cure Cottage. Trudeau Sanitarium (Photo by Paige Doerner)



Mt Hope Cemetery, Rochester NY (Photo by Paige Doerner)